

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 08429 201707Z
ACTION SS-25

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-----001061 201714Z /47
O 201702Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0964
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 08429

EXDIS

USEEC

PASS STR FOR AMBASSADOR STRAUSS AND GENEVA FOR SMITH

EO 11652:GDS
TAGS: ETRD, EEC
SUBJECT: MFA RENEWAL

1. COMMISSIONER DAVIGNON CALLED ME IN AT 4:30 PM JULY 20. HE BEGAN BY ASKING ME TO CONVEY HIS APPRECIATION TO STRAUSS FOR THE SUPERB COOPERATION THE COMMUNITY DELEGATION WAS RECEIVING FROM THE AMERICAN MFA NEGOTIATORS IN GENEVA. HE HATED TO ASK FOR MORE HELP BUT HE HAD NO CHOICE. THERE WERE STILL TWO PROBLEMS. THE COMMUNITY COULD BYPASS EGYPT AND BRAZIL BUT INDIA WAS IMPORTANT. THE COMMUNITY WAS TRYING ITSELF TO HANDLE INDIA WITH PRIVATE ASSURANCES OF FAVORABLE TREATMENT. ON THE SECOND PROBLEM THEY NEEDED US SUPPORT.

2. THE FRENCH AND BRITISH ARGUED THAT THE TEXT OF PARAGRAPH EIGHT AGREED BY THE COMMUNITY, THE US AND JAPAN, WAS A TRAP. THEY FEARED THAT THE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT GO BADLY AND THAT THEY WOULD STILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RENEW THE MFA THIS DECEMBER. HE, CONFIDENTIAL

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DAVIGNON, DID NOT AGREE BUT HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO PERSUADE THE FRENCH AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS. HE HAD SPENT TWO HOURS JULY 19 WITH PRIME MINISTER BARRE AND FRENCH MINISTERS AND TWO HOURS IN LONDON WITH CONCERNED MINISTERS. IT HAD BEEN HARD GOING, BUT HE HAD OBTAINED THE AGREEMENT OF THE FRENCH AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS PROVIDED PARAGRAPH EIGHT IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER EXPLICIT-

LY CONDITIONED SIGNATURE ON WHAT WAS IN EARLIER PARAGRAPH FIVE.

3. ON BASIS OF WHAT MIKE SMITH HAD TOLD ME BY TELEPHONE EARLIER, I TOLD DAVIGNON THAT EXPLICIT CONDITIONALITY MIGHT WELL PROVIDE THE BREAKING POINT IN THE OTHER DIRECTION. HE SAID HE KNEW AND THAT IT WAS SILLY BUT THAT HE HAD NO CHOICE. HE WOULD GUARANTEE US THAT WITH HIS WORDS THE COMMUNITY WOULD GO ALONG. HE TALKED OF HOW SWIMMINGLY THINGS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN GOING BETWEEN THE US AND THE COMMUNITY AND HOW HE HAD TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH BARRE TO OBTAIN A FRENCH PLEDGE THAT STRAUSS' MFA TIMETABLE WOULD NOT ENCOUNTER FRENCH OPPOSITION, ETC., ETC. I SAID I UNDERSTOOD AND THAT IN MY VIEW THE ARGUMENT THAT ANOTHER PHRASE WAS NEEDED CUT BOTH WAYS. I WOULD PUT THE MATTER TO YOU AND SMITH AND URGE THAT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE WE HELP ONCE AGAIN.

4. SPECIFICALLY WHAT DAVIGNON WANTS IS INSERTION IN PARAGRAPH EIGHT OF THE FOLLOWING PHRASE "ON THE BASIS OF ELEMENTS MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH FIVE ABOVE." THIS WOULD BE INSERTED AFTER THE PHRASE "WHICH IS SUBJECT" AND BEFORE "TO CONFIRMATION." THUS, THE COMMUNITY PROPOSAL IS THAT PARAGRAPH EIGHT READ AS FOLLOWS:
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QUOTE:

8. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE EVOLUTIONARY AND CYCLICAL NATURE OF TRADE IN TEXTILES, AND THE NEED TO SOLVE ALL PROBLEMS, INCLUDING THOSE DISCUSSED BY IMPORTING AND EXPORTING COUNTRIES AT THE MEETINGS OF THE TEXTILE COMMITTEE, IN A CONSTRUCTIVE AND EQUITABLE MANNER FOR THE INTEREST OF ALL CONCERNED, A SUFFICIENT CONVERGENCE OF VIEWS HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED WHICH IS SUBJECT, ON THE BASIS OF THE ELEMENTS MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH FIVE ABOVE, TO CONFIRMATION BY THE SIGNATURE AS FROM 15.12.77, OF A PROTOCOL FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE MFA IN ITS PRESENT FORM FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS.
UNQUOTE

5. DAVIGNON INDICATED THAT OTHER WORDS THAT CONVEYED THE MEANING OF HIS PROPOSED INSERT COULD BE USED. HINTON

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